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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 7356th meeting of the Security Council, held on 8 January 2015, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls its Presidential Statement of 5 November 2014 and reiterates its deep concern regarding the security and humanitarian crisis in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) due to ongoing destabilizing activities of foreign and domestic armed groups, and stresses the importance of neutralizing all armed groups, including, among others, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR).

"The Security Council notes that the January 2nd deadline set by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has passed, and that the FDLR has not only failed to unconditionally and fully surrender and demobilize, but has also continued to recruit new fighters in their ranks.

"The Security Council, while noting the surrender of an estimated 300 former rank and file members of the FDLR in 2014, consisting of mainly old and non-essential combatants, stresses that such surrenders alone are insufficient to end the threat posed by the group, and does not come close to representing the full demobilization of the FDLR as called for by the ICGLR, SADC, and the Security Council.

"The Security Council further recalls that the swift neutralization of the FDLR is a top priority in bringing stability to and protecting the civilians of the DRC and the Great Lakes region, in line with the wider commitments made in the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the DRC and the region.

"The Security Council notes the DRC government's January 2nd statement in which it stated that military action against the FDLR is now "inevitable", and that the region, represented by the ICGLR and SADC, has made clear its support for military action by the DRC and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), in the absence of the full demobilization of the FDLR, including its military leadership, with the objective of ending the threat posed by the group.

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